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**RECENT SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS;
CENTRAL ASIA EASTERN EUROPE, SIBERIA**

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES TO AID NATIONAL ECONOMY -- Pravda, No 93, 8 Apr 49

On 7 April, the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences USSR held a plenary session in Moscow. Professor A. V. Topchilov, chief academic secretary of the Presidium, spoke on scientific and research trends for 1949. Many problems of national economic significance are to be worked out under the Academy's 1949 plan. Special attention will be given to: developing the fish and food industries, automatizing and mechanizing production processes, and developing important new structures, apparatus, and instruments.

Scientists will also study soils in regions of the State forest belt and new agricultural developments.

S. I. Vavilov, president of the Academy, Academicians B. D. Gskov, V. P. Volgin, V. N. Sukachev, and others participated in the discussion.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ANNOUNCES CONTEST. -- Sovetskaya Litva, No 41, 19 Feb 49

The Academy of Sciences USSR has announced the following prizes for 1949:

In the field of biological sciences, the prizes ineni V. L. Komarov, 20,000 rubles; I. P. Pavlov, 20,000 rubles; K. A. Timiryazev, 25,000 rubles; I. I. Mechnikov, 20,000 and 25,000 rubles.

In the field of technological sciences, the prizes imeni S. A. Chaplygin and B. G. Galerkin.

In the Department of Geological and Geographical Sciences, the prizes
Imeni V. I. Vernadskiy, V. V. Dokuchayev, A. Ye. Fersman, and others.

The Department of History and Philosophy, Academy of Sciences USSR, has announced a competition for the 10,000-ruble prize imeni E. N. Miklukho-Maklay for outstanding work in the field of ethnography.

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DATA ON CENTRAL ASIA EARTHQUAKES -- Kommunist Tadzhikistana, No 55, 20 Mar 49

Research by the Geophysical Institute, Academy of Sciences USSR, has shown that the epicenters of earthquakes in Central Asia occur at a depth of 200-250 kilometers.

In Tadzhikistan, the main lines of disturbance are along the Gissarskiy Mountain Range through Ramit, Fayzabad, Obi-Garm, Garm, Khant, and Pamir and along the line of Obi-Garm and Khovaling, continuing off into Afghanistan. Between 60 and 75 percent of the disturbances felt by Tadzhik seismic stations come from Afghanistan.

The epicenter of the Ashkabad earthquake, of the night of 6 October 1948, was placed by preliminary calculations of the Stalinabad Seismic Station (director, P. G. Semenov) at a depth of from 150 to 200 kilometers. Its location was determined to be a point in Iran 65 miles from Ashkabad, 37 31 N, 57 30 W. This point falls along the line of disturbance which follows the Kopet-Dag Mountain Range. At present, movements are reported along almost all of this line.

Ashkabad is situated on a mass of loess more than 30 meters thick having an air content of 53 percent.

There are now three seismic stations in Tadzhikistan, at Stalinabad, Kulyab, and Obi-Garm, equipped with new, extremely sensitive seismographs.

EXPEDITION EXPLORES PRIMORSKIY RANGE -- Tikhookeanskaya Zvezda, No 30, 6 Feb; No 36, 13 Feb; and No 42, 20 Feb 49

In the summer of 1946, the Khabarovsk Affiliate of the All-Union Geographical Society organized an expedition to penetrate the unexplored central part of the Sikhote-Alin' Mountain Range. Yu. Shestakova, Tikhookeanskaya Zvezda draftsman, who participated in this expedition, has completed a book about the journey to the source of the Khor River.

The four-man expedition followed animal trails through fir forests and after 84 days reached the source of the Khor and found a new pass through the Sikhote-Alin' Mountains to the Anyuy River. Vladimir Klavdiyevich Arsen'yev, an earlier explorer, had assumed that the upper course of the Anyuy bends around the course of the Khor. This expedition found, however, that the Tratiy (Third) Zaur, which formerly was incorrectly considered as the Anyuy, and the Vtoroy (Second) Zaur form the beginning of the Anyuy after their confluence. It was also evident that the so-called Pravyy (Right) Khor is actually an independent tributary. The Khor Valley has a clearly expressed character, being an eroded valley, while the Pravyy Khor Valley is wide and stable and has a different landscape. Moreover, the water volume in the Pravyy Khor is considerably less than in the Khor.

On its return, the expedition floated down the narrow and swift Khor past the mouth of the Sooli River and Pikhtau. At the Tivyaku Weather Station, another group of the expedition joined the return trip to Khabarovsk. Manchurian filbert and spindle (beresklit) trees on the shores of the Khor and traces of wild animals such as elk, Manchurian deer, wild boar, tiger, otters, as well as birds gave evidence of the natural riches of the Far East.

SCIENTIST AWARDED ORDER OF LENIN -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 66, 20 Mar 49

Vasiliy Yakovlevich Yur'yev, active member of the Academy of Sciences Ukrainian SSR, was awarded the Order of Lenin by ukase of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet USSR. The award was made on his 70th birthday and 40th anniversary of scientific work in consideration of his outstanding services in the field of selection of grain and corn crops.

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